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# V/STOL Spells Another Row Between Senate, McNamara

## V/STOL? It Means Vertical And Short Takeoff Landing

BY JAMES McCARTNEY

Of Our Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON—A new team of Senate spear-carriers was ordered into battle Wednesday in the stalemated war between the Senate and the Pentagon.

A public investigation began into the awarding of an \$18,-

000,000 contract for research on what is known as the V/STOL.

The initials

stand for a

revolutionary

kind of air-

craf t—officially a Verti-

cal a nd Short

Take-off and Landing aircraft. That means a plane that will take off straight up.

The new battle is being billed in the Senate, at least, as "another TFX case" on a much smaller scale—but the Pentagon sees no similarity.

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THE INVESTIGATION is in the hands of the Senate preparedness subcommittee, headed by Sen. John Stennis (D. Miss.).

It is another challenge from the Senate to the authority of Defense Sec. Robert McNamara to manage the Pentagon.

This has been a basic factor in the much-publicized TFX investigation conducted by the Senate permanent investigations subcommittee.

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that the contract go to the Douglas company.

But Deputy Defense Sec. Roswell Gilpatric decided differently.

Acting for McNamara, he awarded the contract to Bell.

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STENNIS SAYS the Douglas proposal would have been cheaper—and that the Navy felt the Douglas proposal was technically superior.

The Pentagon has furnished no public explanation

for the V/STOL award so far. But it can be expected to present a detailed defense at the hearings.

There can be little question but that Defense Department witnesses will defend the decision on technical grounds.

Secretary McNamara never conceded the accuracy of charges against him in the TFX case and cannot be expected to abandon his position on the V/STOL.